

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5754

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

QRL

E CAIRO 970

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, SA

SUBJECT: CODEL FANNIN

REF STATE 248449

1. AMBASSADOR AKINS LOOKS FORWARD TO ARRIVAL OF CODEL FANNIN; HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF WILL ARRANGE SCHEDULE IN SAUDI ARABIA OF GREATEST BENEFIT POSSIBLE TO SENATORIAL PARTY.

2. EMBASSY NOTES CODEL PLANNING ONE DAY OF BUSINESS IN RIYADH BUT DOES NOT ARRIVE THERE UNTIL 1320 HOURS ON THURSDAY, JAN 17. GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSE DOWN DAILY AT 2 PM, AND THERE IS TENDENCY FOR THEM TO CLOSE AT NOON ON THURSDAYS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS CODEL DEPART DHAHRAN 0625 HOURS LOCAL VIA SV 781, ARRIVING RIYADH 0715 LOCAL. THIS WOULD PERMIT AMPLE TIME FOR CALLS DURING WORK DAY, AND PARTY COULD PROCEED TO JIDDA VIA FIRST AVAILABLE AFTERNOON FLIGHT WHICH DEPARTS RIYADY 1640 AND ARRIVES JIDDA 1800 (SV 847). CODEL WOULD BE MET ON ARRIVAL RIYADH BY EMBASSY

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POLITICAL OFFICER CHARLES CECIL, WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY

AS DESIRED ON CALLS AND TRAVEL TO JIDDA WITH CODEL EVENING OF JAN 17. AMBASSADOR AKINS WILL ALSO BE IN RIYADH IF KING IS THERE.

3. ROYAL COURT INFORMS US, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT KING'S MOVEMENTS NOR WHEREABOUTS OF SAUDI GOVERNMENT WILL BE AT THAT TIME. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT KING WILL DEPART EITHER JIDDA OR RIYADH BETWEEN JAN 16 AND 18 FOR ISLAMIC CHIEFS OF STATE CONFERENCE. WHEREVER HE WOULD BE AT THAT TIME IS WHERE TOP ECHELONS OF SAG WOULD BE ALSO. BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES THAT ALWAYS ACCOMPANY KING'S TRAVEL PLANS, VENUE FOR CODEL CALLS THEREFORE MAY NOT BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL. WE WILL KEEP CODEL INFORMED.

4. IF KING DEPARTS FROM JIDDA, HOWEVER, CODEL SHOULD STILL DEPART DHAHRAN VIA SV 781 AND COME DIRECTLY TO JIDDA, ARRIVING 0920 HOURS LOCAL. THEY WOULD BE MET BY AMBASSADOR AND DCM AND ESCORTED TO EMBASSY. APART FROM AUDIENCE WITH KING, OTHER CALLS EMBASSY REQUESTING INCLUDE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI, MINISTER HISHAM NAZER, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR SAQQAF. AGAIN, DEPENDING UPON KING'S MOVEMENTS, IT POSSIBLE SAQQAF MAY OFFER A LUNCH FOR CODEL. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AKINS INVITE ENTIRE CODEL TO FAMILY DINNER EVENING JAN 17. DCM AND MRS. HORAN AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHER EMBASSY COUPLES WOULD VE INVITED; CODEL COULD TURN IN EARLY.

5. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AKINS INVITE SENATOR AND MRS. HANSEN, AND SENATOR AND MRS. BARTLETT TO BE THEIR HOUSE GUESTS; DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AND MRS. HUME HORAN INVITE SENATOR FANNIN TO BE THEIRS. GOVERNMENT QUARTERS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MR. LEESCH AND MRS. BARNES ON THE EMBASSY COMPOUND WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF SENATORIAL PARTY.

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6. FRIDAY IS THE LOCAL SABBATH, AND IN THIS MOST RELIGIOUS OF ALL MUSLIM COUNTRIES, NO BUSINESS CAN BE TRANSACTED ON SUCH DAYS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS CODEL MAY WISH TO TAKE PICNIC LUNCH ABOARD EMBASSY BOAT AND VISIT SOME OF RED SEA'S SPECTACULAR SWIMMING AND CORAL SITES -- NONE OTHER THAN JACQUES COUSTEAU HAS DESCRIBED RED SEA'S MARINE LIFE AS UNQUESTIONABLY MOST COLORFUL IN WORLD. CODEL WOULD DEPART ABOUT

9 AM AND RETURN MID-AFTERNOON. ALTERNATIVELY THEY COULD REST, SWIM AT PLEASANT EMBASSY POOL, PLAY TENNIS, OR GOLF (EMBASSY NINE-HOLE GOLF COURSE). EQUIPMENT CAN BE PROVIDED. THAT EVENING AMBASSADOR WOULD GIVE DINNER FOR CODEL TO WHICH A NUMBER OF LEADING SAUDI FIGURES WOULD BE INVITED, PLUS CERTAIN MEMBERS OF U.S. BUSINESS AND EMBASSY COMMUNITIES.

7. RENTED CARS AND DRIVERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CODEL'S USE THROUGHOUT THEIR VISIT.

8. EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER EDWARD POHL AND DCM HUME HORAN WILL ACCOMPANY CODEL TO AIRPORT JANUARY 19, DEPARTING EMBASSY COMPOUND 0715 IN ORDER EMPLANE ISV 747 FOR CAIRO WHICH DEPARTS 0800.

9. CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT WILL BE DCM HUME HORAN. AKINS

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